

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-27 (canceled)

28.(new) A motor vehicle part comprising:

- an airbag safety device comprising a housing and an airbag contained in said housing;
- a dashboard portion formed with an extraction hatch adapted to open under the effect of the airbag inflating when the device is triggered;
- a frame secured to the dashboard portion; and
- a flap for reinforcing the hatch, a portion of the flap being pressed against a face of the hatch and being secured thereto, and in which a retaining portion is secured to the frame via at least one retaining hook acting against the flap being ejected in the event of the device being triggered; in which said hook is formed integrally with the flap and, during triggering of the device, co-operates with a complementary shoulder formed with the frame; wherein the frame is arranged between the housing and the hatch in such a manner as to form a guide channel for guiding deployment of the airbag, and wherein said shoulder is defined by a window formed in the frame, and the dashboard portion presents at least one rib that projects into the window so as to close the window at least in part and hold the hook engaged in said window.

29.(new) A part according to claim 28, wherein the hook is T-shaped, the window being of corresponding shape.

30.(new) A part according to claim 28, wherein the frame presents a rim for fastening to the dashboard portion, the rim

having both a face pressed against and secured to a complementary face of the dashboard portion, and also an adjacent wall that is substantially orthogonal thereto, and wherein each window comprises a respective insertion portion for inserting the hook formed in said rim, and a retaining portion forming a shoulder for the hook that is formed in said adjacent wall, the insertion portion being closed at least in part by the respective ribs of the dashboard portion.

31.(new) A part according to claim 28, wherein the flap comprises a plate of shape complementary to the hatch and secured thereto, and wherein the retaining portion comprises at least one strip formed integrally with said plate from an edge thereof, with said hook being formed beside the free end of said strip.

32.(new) A part according to claim 31, wherein the strip presents an undulation such that said strip can be stretched, thus enabling the hatch to become completely detached and to be ejected from the dashboard portion on triggering of the device.

33.(new) A part according to claim 31, wherein the flap has at least two such strips disposed symmetrically from an edge of the plate, and each formed with a hook.

34.(new) A method of assembling a part according to claim 28, in which the shoulder is defined by a window formed in the frame, in which method, the following steps are performed in succession:

- fixing the flap to the corresponding face of the hatch;
- presenting the frame for fastening to the dashboard portion, and engaging the hooks in the respective windows; and
- fastening the frame to the dashboard portion.

35.(new) A method according to claim 34, wherein the safety device is subsequently fastened relative to the frame.

36.(new) A method according to claim 34, wherein the flap is fastened to the hatch by heat-sealing.

37.(new) A method according to claim 34, wherein the frame is fastened to the dashboard portion by heat-sealing.

38.(new) A motor vehicle dashboard assembly comprising:

- a dashboard portion having an inside face provided with a peripheral line of weakness defining a gate zone;
- a guide element for guiding deployment of the airbag of an airbag safety device, said guide element being secured to the inside face of the dashboard portion and comprising:
 - walls forming a guide channel designed to surround the airbag safety device at least in part; and
 - a peripheral rim for fastening the guide element to the inside face of the dashboard portion around the gate zone, and internally defining an opening zone of the dashboard portion for passing the airbag;
- at least one reinforcing flap secured to the inside face of the dashboard portion in register with the gate zone; and
- a hinge element connecting the reinforcing flap to the guide element and/or to the dashboard portion;

wherein the guide element includes a hinge shield isolating the hinge element from the guide channel.

39.(new) A dashboard assembly according to claim 38, wherein the walls forming the guide channel and the peripheral fastening rim are made together by injection-molding plastics material.

40.(new) A dashboard assembly according to claim 38, wherein the wall of the guide element facing the hinge element forms a double wall defining a cavity surrounding said hinge element, the double wall comprising a first wall forming the shield and providing continuity for the guide channel as far as the reinforcing flap, and a second wall that is connected to the peripheral fastening rim.

41.(new) A dashboard assembly according to claim 38, wherein the hinge element and the reinforcing flap are made together by injection-molding plastics material.

42.(new) A dashboard assembly according to claim 38, wherein the hinge element and the reinforcing flap are formed together by stamping a metal sheet.

43.(new) A dashboard assembly according to claim 38, wherein the hinge element presents an operative fastening zone opposite from the reinforcing flap, said operative fastening zone being assembled to the peripheral fastening rim of the guide element and/or to the dashboard portion.

44.(new) A motor vehicle part comprising:

- a dashboard portion formed with an extraction hatch adapted to open under the effect of inflation of the airbag of an airbag safety device, in the event of the device triggering;

- a frame secured to the dashboard portion, and forming a guide channel for guiding the deployment of the airbag; and

- a reinforcing flap for reinforcing the hatch, having a reinforcing plate pressed against a face of the hatch and secured thereto, and having a hinge element connected to the frame and/or to the dashboard portion via at least one operative assembly zone acting against ejection of the flap during triggering of the device;

wherein the operative assembly zone is formed integrally with the hinge element and with the reinforcing plate, and during triggering of the device co-operates with a complementary shoulder formed with the frame or with the dashboard portion.

45.(new) A part according to claim 44, wherein said shoulder is defined by a rib formed projecting from the frame or from the dashboard portion, and the operative assembly zone of the hinge element is provided with at least one opening through

which the rib passes, the rib presenting a free end coming into contact respectively with the dashboard portion or the frame so as to hold the rib engaged in the opening of the operative assembly zone at the interface between the frame and the dashboard portion.

46.(new) A part according to claim 45, wherein the frame presents a rim for fastening to the dashboard portion, the frame having a face pressed against and secured to a complementary face of the dashboard portion, and wherein the ribs are localized in setback zones of the face that is pressed against and secured to the complementary face of the dashboard portion, in such a manner that the free ends of the ribs lie in the plane of the face that is pressed against and secured to a complementary face of the dashboard portion.

47.(new) A part according to claim 44, wherein said shoulder is defined by a passage formed through the frame, and the operative assembly zone of the hinge element is provided with at least one catch directed away from the dashboard portion and passing through the passage.

48.(new) A part according to claim 47 , wherein the frame presents a rim for fastening to the dashboard portion, the rim having a face pressed against and fastened to a complementary face of the dashboard portion, and wherein the passages are localized in setback zones of the face pressed against and fastened to the complementary face of the dashboard portion in such a manner that the catches are held in position in the passages by the overlying dashboard portion.

49.(new) A part according to claim 44, wherein the hinge element comprises at least one strip formed integrally with said plate from an edge thereof, an operative assembly zone being formed beside the free edge of said strip.

50.(new) A part according to claim 49, wherein the strip presents an undulation such that said strip can be stretched,

thus enabling the hatch to become complementary detached and ejected from the dashboard portion during triggering of the device.

51.(new) A part according to claim 49, wherein the flap comprises at least two such strips arranged symmetrically from an edge of the plate, and each formed with a respective operative assembly zone.

52.(new) A method of assembling a part according to claim 44, in which the following steps are performed in succession:

- fastening the flap to the corresponding face of the hatch;
- presenting the frame for fastening to the dashboard portion, and causing the operative zones to co-operate with the respective complementary shoulders; and
- fastening the frame to the dashboard portion.

53.(new) A method according to claim 51, wherein the flap is fastened to the hatch by heat-sealing.

54.(new) A method according to claim 52, wherein the frame is fastened to the dashboard portion by heat-sealing.